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COUNTRY Austria (Soviet Zone)REPORT NO. TOPIC General Military InformationEVALUATION 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED 25X1CDATE OF CONTENT 25X1CDATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 3 December 1953REFERENCES 25X1APAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

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1. On 31 October 1953, the quarters of the heavy tank and SP gun regiment in Kagran (P 49/X 49) were again occupied to capacity.¹
2. On 29 October, no marks indicating loading on the ramps at the Goeppfritz (O 49/R 64) railroad station were observed. Railroadmen stated that, contrary to the transportation of whole units in 1952, the troops in 1953 turned to their home stations in small shipments. Source determined that the troops were not only shipped away on trains which did not interfere with regular traffic, but also returned by road. Railroad cars observed at the Goeppfritz railroad station included 8 flatcars, 6 heavy-duty flatcars and 5 boxcars as a Soviet transport reserve. Two majors wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and another major with black-bordered black epaulets arrived from Vienna and were driven by a soldier with red-bordered black epaulets.

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25X1C

4. On 27 October, a sedan, jeep driven by a soldier with red-bordered black epaulets, and jeep driven by a soldier with black-bordered red epaulets were parked on the square in front of the former Kreisgericht in St. Poelten (O 49/W 88). Eight soldiers with black-bordered black epaulets were observed entering the yard of the Eugen Kaserne through a gap in the fence. Two pontoon trucks and a tank truck were cleaned in the yard. Maintenance work was done by soldiers on 6 trucks, 4 tank trucks, 3 jeeps, and 8 sidecar motorcycles standing in front of the garages at the Eigner Kaserne. Eleven soldiers supervised by a senior lieutenant wearing black-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia were engaged in athletics at the Franz Josef Kaserne which was guarded by a sentry with black-bordered black epaulets. Vehicles observed at Camp Spratzern included 3 T-34/85 tanks, 2 armored half-track vehicles, 11 trucks, 2 tank trucks, and 2 jeeps. The installation was guarded by a sentry

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1A

with red-bordered black epaulets. About 40 soldiers were seen. There was no change on the movable target installation on the western perimeter of the camp.

25X1C

5. On 23 October, 24 trucks and 3 jeeps, but no weapons and field kitchens, were parked in the area of the former Landesheilanstalt in Mauer Oehling (O 49/W 26). Only little activity was observed, but numerous imprints, also of tracks, were seen on the roads outside the installation, except in front of the railroad station. On 24 October, about 53 trucks, 6 jeeps, 2 SU-76., and field kitchens were parked in the area of the former Landesheilanstalt. Maintenance work and overhauling was started on the still dusty vehicles. Austrian newspapers reported that track-laying vehicles did damage to fields in the Waldhofen⁸⁷⁰⁸ on the Ybbs River (O 48/W 25) area during the last third of October. Light machine gun firing was heard from the firing range. A group of 16 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets carrying rifles and two light machine guns subsequently returned from the firing range to the former Landesheilanstalt. A dummy T-34 tank was standing on the drill ground northeast of the installation.

25X1C

1. Comment. The 106th Gds Hv Tank SF Regt from Vienna-Kagran was stationed at the Doellersheim troop training grounds during the summer of 1953. Return movements of units from the troop training grounds about on and after mid-October 1953 were also observed at other posts.

2. Comment. The reports from Goeppfritz and Allentsteig confirm that between 26 and 29 October 1953, the troops probably had vacated the summer camp at the Doellersheim troop training grounds. The assumption by source that some troops returned to their home station by road is substantiated by the report of 14 October 1953 by the same source indicating the arrival of a motorized column at St. Poelten.

25X1C

25X1A

25X1C

3. Comment. The information from St. Poelten and Camp Spratzern indicates no essential change affecting the previous estimate of the occupation.

25X1C

4. Comment. About between 23 and 27 October 1953, field exercises probably were conducted in the area of Waldhofen on the Ybbs River (south of Mauer Oehling) with the 290th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt from Mauer Oehling participating in the maneuvers.

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